

Financial Assistance Resources

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Market Development Division
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Table of Contents

<i>Federal Grant/Funding Programs</i>	3
<i>beta.SAM.gov</i>	3
<i>Foundation Center</i>	3
<i>Grants.gov</i>	3
<i>Benefits.gov</i>	4
<i>A National Sustainable Agriculture Assistance Program (ATTRA)</i>	4
<i>USA.gov</i>	4
<i>Community Development</i>	5
<i>Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP)</i>	5
<i>Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program</i>	5
<i>Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program</i>	6
<i>Conservation & Resource Management</i>	7
<i>Farm Service Agency (FSA)</i>	7
<i>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</i>	7
<i>Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)</i>	9
<i>Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants</i>	9
<i>Financing Businesses and New Enterprises</i>	10
<i>Small Business Development Center Program (SBDC)</i>	10
<i>Quality Samples Program (QSP)</i>	11
<i>Rural Business Development Grants</i>	11
<i>Rural Business Investment Program</i>	12
<i>Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant</i>	13
<i>Marketing & Development</i>	14
<i>Specialty Crop Block Grants</i>	14
<i>Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)</i>	14
<i>Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)</i>	15

<i>Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)</i>	16
<i>Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)</i>	16
<i>Emerging Markets Program (EMP)</i>	17
<i>Market Access Program (MAP)</i>	17
<i>Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA)</i>	18
<i>State Trade Expansion Program (STEP Grant).....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)</i>	19
<i>Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU)</i>	20
<i>Acer Access and Development Program (ACER)</i>	20
<i>Research</i>	21
<i>Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program</i>	21
<i>Potato Breeding Research</i>	22
<i>Biomass Research and Development Initiative (BRDI)</i>	22
<i>Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)</i>	23
<i>Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)</i>	24
<i>Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO).....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Technical Assistance</i>	25
<i>Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)</i>	25
<i>The Cochran Fellowship Program</i>	25
<i>Scientific Cooperation Research Program.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Extension Risk Management Education Program (ERME)</i>	26
<i>Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)</i>	27

Federal Grant/Funding Programs

beta.SAM.gov

This is the new official U.S. government website for people who make, receive, and manage federal awards. All of the functionality and data from the former Catalog of Domestic Assistance (CFDA) website, now retired, can now be found on beta.SAM.gov.

The federal government provides assistance to the American public in the form of projects, services, and activities. It supports a broad range of programs—such as education, health care, research, infrastructure, economic development and other programs—through grants, loans, scholarships, insurance, and other types of financial assistance.

SAM provides detailed, public descriptions of federal assistance listings available to State and local governments (including the District of Columbia); federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Territories (and possessions) of the United States; domestic public, quasi- public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups, and individuals.

As an entity looking for federal assistance, you can conduct your preliminary planning using SAM. Browse assistance listings across all government agencies to form a “big picture” of your funding options. Each assistance listing is associated with a unique five digit CFDA (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance) number. Once you identify a federal assistance listing that you’re interested in, you can link directly to grant opportunities on Grants.gov or follow up with that specific agency using the contact information provided.

<https://beta.sam.gov/>

Candid.

The former Foundation Center and GuideStar have joined forces to create a new organization: Candid. Candid. provides information on philanthropy in the United States. They help grant seekers, grant makers, researchers, policymakers, the media, and the general public better understand and improve in the field of philanthropy and provides an online directory tool to find funding.

<http://candid.org/>

Grants.gov

Grants.gov is your source to FIND and APPLY for federal government grants. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services manages Grants.gov, established as a governmental resource named the E-Grants Initiative operating under the governance of the Office of Management and Budget, part of the President's 2002 Fiscal Year Management Agenda to improve government services to the public.

Grants.gov is a central storehouse for information on over 1,000 grant programs and vets grant applications for federal grant-making agencies.

<http://www.grants.gov/>

Benefits.gov

Benefits.gov provides a personalized screening tool to help individuals find the right benefits and assistance programs. Beneficiaries include U.S. citizens, businesses, and Federal and state government entities. This online screening tool is free, easy-to-use, and confidential as it does not require a name, phone number, Social Security number, or any other information that could be used for identification.

Answer questions to find out which benefits you may be eligible to receive by visiting the “Start Benefit Finder” section. Once completed, you will receive a list of government benefit programs you may be eligible to receive along with information about how you can apply.

<https://www.benefits.gov/>

A National Sustainable Agriculture Assistance Program (ATTRA)

ATTRA is a program developed and managed by the [National Center for Appropriate Technology \(NCAT\)](#). The majority of funding for ATTRA is through a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture’s [Rural Business Cooperative Service](#). They are also partially funded through sales and subscriptions of a portion of ATTRA materials and through contributions from friends and supporters. They are committed to providing high value information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, Extension agents, educators, and others involved in sustainable agriculture in the United States.

<https://attra.ncat.org/index.php>

USA.gov

This website is the official U.S. gateway to all government information. It provides information about government grants, including:

- What is a grant from the government?
- Who can get a grant?
- Search and Apply for Government Grants (through Grants.gov).
- “Free” Grants and Grant Scams.

Sources include federal and state governments, U.S. territories, and foreign nations.

<http://www.usa.gov/>

Community Development

Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP)

The CFPCGP has existed since 1996 as a program to fight food insecurity through developing community food projects that help promote the self-sufficiency of low-income communities. Community Food Projects are designed to increase food security in communities by bringing the whole food system together to assess strengths, establish linkages, and create systems that improve the self-reliance of community members over their food needs.

The program is designed to:

- Meet the needs of low-income people by increasing their access to fresher, more nutritious food supplies.
- Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs.
- Promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues.
- Meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs for infrastructure improvement and development.
- Plan for long-term solutions.
- Create innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

Funding: Projects are funded from \$10,000–\$400,000 and from one to four years. This is a one-time, dollar-for-dollar match grant for eligible private nonprofit entities.

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<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/community-food-projects-competitive-grant-program-cfpcgp>

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Community Facilities Programs provide affordable funding - through low interest direct loans, grants, a combination of loans and grants, and loan guarantees - for projects to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas.

Funding is provided through a competitive process and can be used to purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses.

Examples of essential community facilities include:

- Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
- Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangars or street improvements.
- Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing.
- Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment.

- Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools.
- Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment.
- Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses.

Who may apply: Public bodies, community-based non-profit corporations, and federally-recognized Tribes.

Funding: Smaller communities with the lowest median household income are eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs:

- Maximum 75% when located in a rural community having a population of 5,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 60 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
- Maximum of 55 percent when located in a rural community having a population of 12,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 70 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
- Maximum of 35 percent when located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 80 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income.
- Maximum of 15 percent when located in a rural community having a population of 20,000 or fewer; and the median household income of the proposed service area is below the higher of the poverty line or 90 percent of the State nonmetropolitan median household income. The proposed project must meet both percentage criteria.

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/id>

Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

This program provides long term low interest loans, and grants if available, for clean and reliable drinking water, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.

Who may apply: Most state and local governmental entities, private non-profits, and federally-recognized tribes who are not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms.

Funding: Contact the local representative for loan amounts. Loan terms are up to a 40-year payback period, based on the useful life of the facilities financed. Interest rates are fixed, based on the need for the project and the median household income of the area to be served

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program/id>

Conservation & Resource Management

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

The FSA administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and loan programs as laid out by Congress through a network of federal, state, and county offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of the agricultural industry and to help farmers adjust production to meet demand. Economically, the desired result of these programs is a steady price range for agricultural commodities for both farmers and consumers. Programs vary from year to year, so contact your local office to find out what programs are currently active.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities, and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land.

Producers with active contracts under the 2014 Farm Bill may continue completing practices as scheduled. The 2018 Farm Bill was enacted on December 20, 2018. The Farm Bill continues its strong support for conservation efforts of America's farmers and ranchers through reauthorization and expanded flexibility of NRCS conservation programs.

Conservation financial assistance programs:

- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil

erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against increasing weather volatility.

- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.
- [Agricultural Management Assistance Program \(AMA\)](#) helps agricultural producers manage financial risk through diversification, marketing or natural resource conservation practices. NRCS administers the conservation provisions while Agricultural Marketing Service and Risk Management Agency implement the production diversification and marketing provisions.
- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program \(ACEP\)](#) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.
- [Healthy Forests Reserve Program \(HFRP\)](#) helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private and tribal lands through easements and financial assistance. Through HFRP, landowners promote the recovery of endangered or threatened species, improve plant and animal biodiversity and enhance carbon sequestration.
- [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and RCPP conservation program contracts.

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<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/>

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. CIG projects inspire creative problem solving that boosts production on farms, ranches, and private forests - ultimately, they improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. Public and private grantees develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation conservation efforts on working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges. Grantees must match the CIG investment at least one to one.

In fiscal year 2020, a total of \$225,000 is available for the Idaho CIG competition, with a maximum award amount of \$75,000.

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Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy System (REAP)

Provides guaranteed loan financing (up to 75% of eligible costs) and grant funding (up to 25% of eligible costs) to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Funds may be used for renewable energy systems or to purchase, install, and construct energy efficiency improvements.

Who may apply: Agricultural producers with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations and small businesses in eligible rural areas.

Funding:

- Renewable Energy System Grants: \$2,500 - \$500,000.
- Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1,500 - \$250,000.
- Loan guarantees: \$5,000 - \$25,000,000.

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency/id>

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought. The ECP does this by giving ranchers and farmers funding and assistance to repair the damaged farmland or to install methods for water conservation.

Who can apply: Land that has suffered damage from a natural disaster or severe drought, which creates new conservation problems that if not dealt with would:

- Further damage the land
- Significantly affect the land's productive capacity
- Represent damage from a natural disaster unusual for the area (an exception to this is damage from wind erosion)
- Be too costly to repair without Federal assistance in order to return the land to agricultural production

Funding: Up to 75% of the cost to implement emergency conservation practices can be provided, however the final amount is determined by the committee reviewing the application. Qualified limited resource producers may earn up to 90% cost-share. The FSA County Committee is able to approve applications up to \$50,000 while \$50,001 to \$100,000 requires state committee approval. Amounts over \$100,000 require the approval of the national FSA office.

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<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index>

Financing Businesses and New Enterprises

Small Business Development Center Program (SBDC)

The Idaho Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is a statewide, university-based organization which has been helping small businesses succeed since 1986. Experienced Idaho SBDC consultants meet with clients to provide guidance in developing and growing a successful business.

With six office locations throughout the state, each affiliated with one of Idaho's colleges or universities, the Idaho SBDC is uniquely positioned to serve as a focal point for linking together partners from higher education, the private business community, and federal, state and local government.

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Quality Samples Program (QSP)

The QSP enables potential customer around the world to discover the quality and benefits of U.S. agricultural products. This program focuses on processors and manufacturers rather than consumers, and QSP projects should benefit an entire industry or commodity rather than a specific company or product. Projects should focus on developing a new market or promoting a new use for the U.S. product.

Any U.S. private or government entity with an interest in exporting U.S. agricultural products may apply to the program. QSP participants obtain commodity samples, export them and provide the recipient with guidance on how to use the samples. USDA will reimburse the participant for the costs of procuring and transporting samples after a project is finished.

USDA-FAS Program Operations Division

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<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/quality-samples-program-qsp>

Rural Business Development Grants

This program is designed to provide technical assistance and training for rural businesses with fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue. Program activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grants.

Enterprise grants must be used on projects to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application, such as:

- Training and technical assistance (project planning, business counseling/training, market research, feasibility studies, professional/technical reports, product/service improvement)
- Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation of buildings; plants, machinery, equipment, access for streets and roads; parking areas and utilities
- Pollution control and abatement
- Capitalization of revolving loan funds and loans for start-ups and working capital
- Distance adult learning for job training and advancement
- Rural transportation improvement
- Community economic development
- Technology-based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

Opportunity grants can be used for:

- Community economic development
- Technology-based economic development
- Feasibility studies and business plans
- Leadership and entrepreneur training
- Rural business incubators
- Long-term business strategic planning

Who may apply: Rural public entities including but not limited to, towns, communities, state agencies, authorities, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, federally-recognized Tribes, rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation).

Funding: There is no maximum grant amount; however, smaller requests are given higher priority. There is no cost sharing requirement. Opportunity grants are limited to up to 10 percent of the total Rural Business Development Grant annual funding.

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Rural Business Investment Program

This program provides a Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) license to newly formed venture capital organizations to help meet the equity capital investment needs in rural communities.

All applicants must have relevant experience in venture capital or community development financing, must raise a minimum of \$10 million in private equity capital, and may be structured as limited partnerships, limited liability companies, or corporations. There are no restrictions on the location of eligible applicants for RBIC licenses. The goal of each RBIC is to help fill the need for business and development capital in rural areas.

Who can apply: Eligible applicants for the RBIC license include newly formed for-profit entities or subsidiary of an entity.

Funding: Contact your local office for funding amounts.

- minimum 75% of funds must be made in rural areas with a population of 50,000 or less.
- minimum 50% of funds must be invested in smaller enterprises.
- maximum 10% of RBIC investments may be made in urban areas.

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<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-investment-program>

Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant

The primary objective of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant program is to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups through cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers. Cooperatives or Centers can be located in any area, but the group assisted must be located in an eligible rural area.

Grants must be used to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas, such as feasibility studies, business plans, strategic planning, and leadership training.

Who can apply: Cooperatives and Cooperative Development Centers.

Funding: \$175,000 maximum grant amount. Total funding equals \$3,000,000. Matching funds are not required.

Application deadlines: June 3 for electronic applications and June 7 for paper applications.

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Marketing & Development

Specialty Crop Block Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture allocates Specialty Crop Block Grant funding to the state and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture passes the funds through to the specialty crop industry as competitive grants.

Projects must solely enhance the competitiveness of U.S. grown specialty crops in either domestic or foreign markets and must provide a benefit to more than just the applicant. Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

Funds are available to interested local, state, and federal government, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and universities. Projects may include, but are not limited to, pest and disease control, enhancing food safety, developing new and improved seed varieties, increasing child and adult nutrition knowledge and consumption of specialty crops, market development, or developing good agricultural, handling, or manufacturing practices. Projects are evaluated on how well they enhance the competitiveness of Idaho's specialty crops, soundness and quality of the project plan, measurable outcomes, and return on investment.

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<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgp>

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

The Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand direct producer-to-consumer markets to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products by developing, coordinating, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, online sales or other direct producer-to-consumer (including direct producer-to-retail, direct producer-to-restaurant and direct producer-to-institutional marketing) market opportunities. A 25% match is required.

Who may apply: All applicants must be domestic entities owned, operated and located within the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands to be considered eligible. Entities that are eligible to apply include: Agricultural businesses and cooperatives, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, economic development corporations, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, producer networks and associations, public benefit corporations, regional farmer's market authorities, and Tribal governments.

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<http://www.ams.usda.gov/fmpp/>

Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP)

The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) funds projects that develop, coordinate and expand local and regional food business enterprises that engage as intermediaries in indirect producer to consumer marketing to help increase access to and availability of locally and regionally produced agricultural products. Grants can be used for the planning stages of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise or to improve or expand a food business that supports locally and regionally produced agricultural products and food system infrastructure by performing feasibility studies, market research, training and technical assistance for the business enterprise and/or for producers working with the business enterprise. A 25% match is required.

Eligible entities may apply if they support local and regional food business enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, or store locally or regionally produced food products.

Who may apply: All applicants must be domestic entities owned, operated and located within the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands to be considered eligible. Entities that are eligible to apply include: Agricultural businesses and cooperatives, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) networks and associations, food councils, economic development corporations, local governments, nonprofit and public benefit corporations, producer networks or associations, regional farmers' market authorities, and tribal governments.

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Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

FSMIP offers grants with a one-to-one dollar match to assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

Who may apply: State departments of agriculture, state agricultural experiment stations, and other state agencies (state universities, state colleges, state governmental entities) located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Foreign Market Development Program (FMD)

FMD, also known as the Cooperator Program, helps create, expand and maintain long-term export markets for U.S. agricultural products. Under the program, FAS partners with U.S. agricultural producers and processors, who are represented by non-profit commodity or trade associations called “cooperators,” to promote U.S. commodities overseas.

The FMD program focuses on generic promotion of U.S. commodities, rather than consumer-oriented promotion of branded products. Preference is given to organizations that represent an entire industry or are nationwide in membership and scope. FMD-funded projects generally address long-term opportunities to reduce foreign import constraints or expand export growth opportunities, example: reduce infrastructure or historical market impediments, improve processing capabilities, modify code and standards, or identify new markets or new uses for the agricultural commodity or product.

Who may apply: Non-profit commodity or trade associations called “cooperators.” Preference is given to organizations that represent an entire industry or are nationwide in membership and scope.

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<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/programs/fmdprogram.asp>

Emerging Markets Program (EMP)

The Emerging Markets Program (EMP) helps U.S. organizations promote exports of U.S. agricultural products to countries that have -- or are developing -- market-oriented economies and that have the potential to be viable commercial markets.

Through the EMP, FAS provides cost-share funding for technical assistance activities such as feasibility studies, market research, sectorial assessments, orientation visits, specialized training and business workshops. The EMP supports exports of generic U.S. agricultural commodities and products, meaning projects that endorse or promote branded products or specific companies are not eligible.

There is no fixed list of "emerging market" countries, but the legislation defines an emerging market as any country that "is taking steps toward a market-oriented economy through the food, agriculture, or rural business sectors of the economy of the country" and "has the potential to provide a viable and significant market for United States commodities or products of United States agricultural commodities." Guidance on qualified countries is provided each year in the program application announcement.

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<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/emerging-markets-program-emp>

Market Access Program (MAP)

Through the Market Access Program (MAP), FAS partners with U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, state regional trade groups, and small businesses to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities that help build commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products and commodities.

MAP reaches virtually every corner of the globe, helping to build markets for a wide variety of U.S. farm and food products. FAS provides cost-share assistance to eligible U.S. organizations for activities such as consumer advertising, public relations, point-of-sale demonstrations, participation in trade fairs and exhibits, market research and technical assistance.

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<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/programs/map.asp>

Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA)

WUSATA receives funding for programs and activities from USDA's Market Access Program (MAP). The Association works with 13 western State Departments of Agriculture (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming), American Samoa and Guam's Departments of Agriculture, and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in posts around the world to facilitate trade between local U.S. food companies and international buyers.

WUSATA's **Global Connect** program sponsors industry-wide food and agricultural projects that are jointly managed by state marketing specialists and WUSATA to help U.S. companies discover new export markets, connect with international buyers, and increase global distribution. Projects and activities sponsored by Global Connect include inbound and outbound trade missions, in-store demonstrations, trade shows, and market research. Companies that want to participate in the Global Connect Program should contact their State Department of Agriculture.

WUSATA's **Export Education** program provides export education and assistance to agribusinesses through webinars and seminars that include WUSATA program details and market intelligence, as well as the Global Positioning Service (GPS) to provide a fast track to get U.S. product into international markets. GPS activities include five tracks:

Track 1: Market Intelligence

Track 2: Market Exploration

Track 3: Product Analysis

Track 4: Market Approach

Track 5: Trade Show Coordination

Companies that want to participate in the Export Education should contact WUSATA directly.

WUSATA's **FundMatch** is a cost-share program that provides 50% reimbursement of pre-approved international marketing expenses to small, food and agricultural companies. To be eligible, companies must qualify as a small business, be headquartered or manufacture in the

WUSATA region, a legally licensed business that has been operating for at least one year, have product that is at least 50% U.S. agricultural origin by weight (excluding added water and packaging), and have product labels and packaging showing a clear U.S. origin statement. Western U.S. agribusinesses may receive up to \$300,000 in FundMatch reimbursements per year. Companies that want to participate in the FundMatches Program should contact WUSATA directly.

Funding: Contact WUSATA for upcoming activities and grant opportunities.

Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association
4601 NE 77th Ave., Suite 240
Vancouver, Washington, USA 98662
Tel: 360-693-3373
Email: export@wusata.org
<http://www.wusata.org/>

Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP)

On January 31, 2019, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$200 million to 57 organizations through the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) to help U.S. farmers and ranchers identify and access new export markets.

The Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) was one of those 57 organizations that applied for ATP funding to help lessen the adverse effects of tariff and non-tariff barriers companies are experiencing, and was awarded a one-time allocation for funding to be used over a three-year period to give WUSATA additional resources to assist companies within our 13 Western States and American Samoa with their exporting efforts. Companies that are eligible for WUSATA's FundMatch Program, and are up to within three times the size standard of the [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)'s definition of a "small business" will qualify for these funds.

Funding: Available only for international marketing and promotional activities.

Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association
4601 NE 77th Ave., Suite 240
Vancouver, Washington, USA 98662
Tel: 360-693-3373
Email: chloe@wusata.org
<http://www.wusata.org/>

State Trade Expansion Program (STEP Grant)

The STEP program is funded in part through a grant with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and is administered by the Idaho Department of Commerce. This trade

and export initiative provides matching-fund grants to states to assist “eligible small business concerns”. Program objectives are to increase the number of small businesses that export, increase the value of exports and increase the number of small businesses exploring significant new trade opportunities.

Financial Assistance Award applications are scheduled to open for three weeks in June for projects that are undertaken during the following two fiscal years starting October 1st immediately following the application and award process.

Who may apply: Companies that fall under the SBA’s definition of a small business.

Funding: \$2,000 minimum; \$10,000 maximum. 35% cash match required. Only one award is allowed per application window.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2270 Old Penitentiary Road\
Boise, ID 83712
Tel: 208-332-8678
Email: chelsea.conlon@isda.idaho.gov
<https://agri.idaho.gov/main/marketing/financial-assistance/step-grant/>

Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG)

The VAPG program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Applicants may receive priority if they are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the Federal Register and through an announcement posted on Grants.gov.

Who may apply: Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

Funding: Planning Grants \$75,000; Working Capital Grants: \$250,000. Total funding equals \$37 million. 50% match required.

Idaho Rural Development Office
Layne Bangerter, State Director
9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1
Boise, ID 83709
Tel: (208) 378-5600
Fax: (208) 378-5643
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>

Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU)

The Forest Service program, FPMU, expands a national scope to include biomass utilization grants for the development of new or existing high value markets for low value wood, including biomass for energy, wood-based nanotechnology, green building construction, and other forest products to increase the utilization of hazardous fuel wood and thereby accelerate forest restoration and help reduce the rate and size of catastrophic fires.

The objectives of the FPMU are to:

- Help accelerate forest restoration, improve economic conditions and create new jobs
- Strengthen forest products marketing, technology development, and applications through a wide-range of strong working relationships and partnerships
- Create incentives for increased use of biomass through federal financial assistance
- Provide national coordination for creating higher value markets from low value wood through new, innovative forest products marketing and utilization opportunities across mixed ownerships along a complex rural to urban land gradient
- Extend forest products marketing technical assistance expertise across all mission areas of the Forest Service and other areas outside the agency, as needed

Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory

One Gifford Pinchot Dr.

Madison, WI 53726-2398

Tel: (608) 231-99200

Fax: (608) 231-9592

E-mail: mailroom_forest_products_laboratory@fs.fed.us

<https://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/research/units/fpmu/index.shtml>

Acer Access and Development Program (ACER)

The Acer Access and Development Program (Acer) offers grants to support the efforts of States, tribal governments, and research institutions to promote the domestic maple syrup industry.

Supported activities include: promotion of research and education related to maple syrup production; promotion of natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry; market promotion for maple syrup and maple-sap products; encouragement of owners and operators of privately held land containing species of trees in the genus *Acer* to initiate or expand maple-sugaring activities on the land; or to voluntarily make the land available, including by lease or other means, for access by the public for maple-sugaring activities.

Who may apply: States, Tribal governments, and research institutions located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Martin “RO” Rosier, Team Lead
Tel: (202) 260-8449
E-mail: martin.rosier@usda.gov
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/acer>

Research

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE)

SARE is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that functions through competitive grants conducted cooperatively by farmers, ranchers, researchers and ag professionals to advance farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound and good for communities.

Types of grants:

- [*Research and Education Program Grants*](#)
involves scientists, agricultural producers, and others using interdisciplinary approaches to advance sustainable agriculture at local and regional levels. With the collaboration of producers, projects must integrate rigorous research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic, and social- and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to students, producers, and other agricultural stakeholders. It is expected that outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be documented in scholarly journals and disseminated throughout teaching and educational outreach activities with students, producers, and other agricultural stakeholders. Research and Education projects are limited to \$350,000 for up to three years.
*2021 Call for Pre-proposals due May 22, 2020 at 12:00 pm MDT
- [*Professional Development Grants*](#)
focuses on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. PDP grants are limited to \$100,000 and can run for up to three years, with the final year to be focused on project evaluation.
*2021 Call for Proposals due November 12, 2020 at 12:00 MST
- [*Farmer/Rancher Grants*](#)
involves agricultural producers (main applicants) and technical advisor(s) implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the support and guidance of the technical advisor, producers must integrate research and education to conduct on-site/on-farm experiments to improve production, marketing, and the environment. It is expected that outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be shared with other producers. Farmer/Rancher projects are limited to \$20,000 for one producer or to \$25,000 for three or more producers, for up to three years.
- [*Professional + Producer Grants*](#)
involves agricultural professional (main applicant) and producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the collaboration of producers,

projects must integrate research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic, and social- and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to producers and other agricultural stakeholders. It is expected that outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be shared with other producers. Professional + Producer projects are limited to \$50,000 for up to three years.

- [*Graduate Student Grants in Sustainable Agriculture*](#)
involves full-time graduate students enrolled in an accredited university of Western U.S., their academic advisor (applicant), and producers implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. With the collaboration of producers, projects must integrate rigorous research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic, and social. It is expected that outcomes of funded projects will result in quantifiable benefits for producers, increase the preservation of the natural and social resources upon which agriculture relies, and be documented in scholarly journals and disseminated throughout educational outreach activities with producers and other agricultural stakeholders. Graduate Student projects are limited to \$25,000 for up to two years.
- [*Research to Grass Roots Grants*](#)
built on the SARE concept that results of applied research are used to train agricultural professionals and producers in the latest principles of sustainable agriculture. Successful R2GR projects will take the research results from previously funded SARE projects and bring those results into the field through education to ag professionals and producers. The maximum for each project's funding is \$75,000.

*2021 Call for Proposals due November 18, 2020 at 12:00 MST

Kate Painter, co-State Coordinator, Bonners Ferry

Email: kpainter@uidaho.edu

Tel: (208) 267-3235

Carmen Willmore, co-State Coordinator, Shoshone

E-mail: cwillmore@uidaho.edu

Tel: (208) 886-2406

<https://www.westernsare.org/Professional-Development-Program/State-and-Protectorate-Pages/Idaho>

Potato Breeding Research

The purpose of this grant program is to support potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) research programs that focus on varietal development and testing and potato varieties for commercial production. As used herein, varietal development and testing is research using conventional breeding and/or biotechnological genetics to develop improved potato varieties. Aspects of evaluation, screening and testing must support variety development.

Who may apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, and State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Applications may only be submitted by

state agricultural experiment stations, land-grant colleges and universities, research foundations established by land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities receiving funds under the Act of October 10, 1962, as amended (16 USC 582a et seq.), and accredited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine.

Help Desk - Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genome Programs, National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov or electronic@usda.gov

<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/potato-breeding-research>

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI)

The purpose of the SCRI program is to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by awarding grants to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas:

- Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve crop characteristics
- Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators
- Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing)
- New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening
- Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production efficiency, handling and processing of specialty crops

Who may apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, For-profit Organizations Other Than Small Businesses, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Private Institutions of Higher Ed, Small Business, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed. Pre-applications may only be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations, foundations, or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

Thomas (Tom) Bewick, National Program Leader

5NW045 Beacon Complex

Tel: (816) 926-1421

Fax: (202) 445-5392

Email: tbewick@usda.gov

<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri>

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI)

OREI seeks to solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education, and extension activities. The purpose of this program is to fund projects that will enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. Priority concerns include biological, physical, and social sciences, including economics. The OREI is particularly interested in projects that emphasize research, education and outreach that assist farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning by delivering practical research-based information. Projects should plan to deliver applied production information to producers. Fieldwork must be done on certified organic land or on land in transition to organic certification, as appropriate to project goals and objectives.

Who may apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, For-profit Organizations Other Than Small Businesses, Private Institutions of Higher Ed, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed, , and any group consisting of 2 or more of the following entities: State agricultural experiment stations, colleges and universities, university research foundations, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations.

Funding: \$20,000,000 estimated for Fiscal Year 2021. Awards range from \$50,000 - \$2,000,000. 100% match required.

Mathieu Ngouajio, National Science Liaison

Tel: (202) 570-1915

E-mail: mathieu.ngouajio@usda.gov

<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/organic-agriculture-research-and-extension-initiative>

Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO)

Farmers Advocating for Organic (FAFO) began with the 2002 Farm Bill, which included an exemption for organic farmers from contributing to national promotion programs like “Got Milk?” In response, Organic Valley devised a way for farmers to pool exemptions into an organic-focused granting fund as a way to promote and advance organic farming.

FAFO is a grant program funded entirely by annual, voluntary contributions from Organic Valley farmers. It is the largest farmer-funded grant program in the U.S. and one of the few focused solely on organic. The fund provides a way for Organic Valley farmers to address the long-term needs of the organic marketplace and future of organic agriculture by supporting the development of long-term solutions. Through combining resources, Organic Valley farmers are able to invest in projects that affect the livelihoods of organic farmers across the country.

Who may apply: Non-profit organizations and academic/research institutions are eligible to submit a letter of interest (LOI). LOIs will reviewed and responded to within two weeks, and if approved, an organization will be invited to submit a full application. Applications must advance FAFO’s mission of protecting and promoting the organic industry or livelihood of organic

farmers through research, education, or advocacy. The impact must reach beyond local communities.

Funding: \$5,000 - \$50,000 for a one-time grant. Grants exceeding \$50,000 and multi-year grants are considered under extraordinary circumstances by invitation only.

Stacy Fahey, Public Affairs Manager
E-mail: stacy.fahey@organicvalley.coop

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC)

The Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program provides funding to eligible U.S. organizations for projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary, and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. Eligible activities include seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, pest and disease research, and pre-clearance programs. Eligible crops include all cultivated plants and their products produced in the United States except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar and tobacco.

The TASC program is intended to benefit an entire industry or commodity rather than a specific company or brand. Proposals may target individual countries or reasonable regional groupings of countries.

Funding: Awards are for up to \$500,000 per year and for projects of up to five years.

USDA - FAS Program Operations Division
Tel: (202) 720-4327
Email: podadmin@usda.gov
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/technical-assistance-specialty-crops-tasc>

The Cochran Fellowship Program

The Cochran Fellowship Program provides short-term training opportunities to agricultural professionals from middle-income countries, emerging markets, and emerging democracies.

The goals are to:

- Help eligible countries develop agricultural systems necessary to meet the food and fiber needs of their domestic populations.
- Strengthen and enhance trade linkages between eligible countries and agricultural interests in the United States.

Approximately 600 Cochran fellows come to the United States each year, generally for 2-3 weeks, to work with U.S. universities, government agencies, and private companies. They receive hands-on training to enhance their technical knowledge and skills in areas related to

agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy, and marketing. USDA announces eligible countries and topics each year based on current trade issues.

Email: cochranfellowship@usda.gov
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/cochran-fellowship-program>

Scientific Cooperation Research Program

The Scientific Cooperation Research Program supports joint research, extension, and education projects — lasting up to two years — between U.S. researchers and researchers from selected emerging market economies. The projects address issues including agricultural trade and market access, animal and plant health, biotechnology, food safety and security, and sustainable natural resource management.

Since 1980, the program has supported more than 400 projects with approximately 95 partnering countries, enhancing the technical skills of more than 1,000 agricultural professionals and helping beneficiary countries to be more competitive consumers of U.S. agricultural products.

Email: borlaugfellowships@usda.gov
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/programs/scientific-cooperation-research-program>

ExtensionRisk Management Education Program (ERME)

The RME Program funds projects to provide farmers with the knowledge, skills, and tools to make informed risk management decisions for their operations. Risk management strategies can range from engaging in futures, options, and forward contracts to broader strategies such as crop and enterprise diversification, conservation planning, new and value-added markets, and asset building. The program currently has five priority topics — production, price or marketing, human resources, legal, and financial risk.

The program is managed by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and operates through four regional centers and a fifth national digital center:

- North Central Center: University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension
- Northeast Center: University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
- Southern Center: University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
- Western Center: Washington State University Cooperative Extension
- Digital Center for Risk Management Education: University of Minnesota

Who may apply: Land grant and other colleges and universities, cooperative extension, and other public and private entities with a demonstrated capacity to develop and deliver educational programs for agricultural producers, including farm groups, lenders, risk management service providers, and community-based organizations (including nonprofits). Collaborative proposals are strongly encouraged.

Funding: \$10,000,000 per fiscal year.

Jo Ann Warner, Assistant Director/Grant Specialist
Western Center: Washington State University Extension

222 N. Havana

Spokane, WA 99202

Tel: (509) 477-2168

E-mail: warnerj@wsu.edu

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/credit-crop-insurance/risk-management-education-program/>

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)

NOCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP).

Who may apply: Certified organic and transitional producers and in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Funding: Certified operations may receive up to 75 percent of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$750 per certification scope.paid certification costs.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Organics Program

PO Box 7249

Boise, ID 83707

Tel: (208) 332-8539

<http://fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>